



Preventing Electrocution After the Storm

After a hurricane, flood or other natural disaster be careful to avoid electrical hazards.

- Never touch a fallen power line. Call your local power company to report fallen power lines.
- During cleanup and other activities, avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Do not drive through standing water if downed power lines are in the water.
- If a power line falls across your car while you are driving, stay inside your car and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not turn off the ignition. Warn people not to touch the car or the line. Notify the local utility company and emergency services. Do not allow anyone other than emergency personnel to approach your car.
- Never turn power on or off or use an electric tool or appliance while standing in water. Have a certified electrician check items if they have been exposed to water.
- Do not connect generators to your home's electrical circuits without the approved automatic-interrupt devices. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard and it may endanger line workers working to restore power in your area.

If you believe someone has been electrocuted take the following steps:

- Look first. Don't touch. The person may still be in contact with the electrical source. Touching the person may pass the current through you.
- Call or have someone call 911 or emergency medical help.
- Turn off the source of electricity if possible. If not move the source away from you and the affected person using a nonconducting object made of cardboard, plastic or wood.
- Once the person is free of the source of electricity, check the person's breathing and pulse, Begin CPR if necessary.
- If the person is faint, pale or shows other signs of shock, lay him or her down with the head slightly lower than the trunk of the body and elevate their legs.
- Don't touch burns, break blisters or remove burned clothing. Electrical shock can cause burns inside the body so be sure the person is taken to the doctor.